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13 NATIONAL FIRE & MARINE INSURANCE COMPANY

14 **UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT**  
15 **DISTRICT OF NEVADA**

16 NATIONAL UNION FIRE INSURANCE ) Case No. 2:09-cv-00783-GMN-GWF  
17 COMPANY OF PITTSBURGH, PA, a )  
17 Pennsylvania corporation, )  
18 Plaintiff, )  
19 v. )  
20 SHARP PLUMBING, INC., a Nevada )  
20 corporation and DOES 1 through 50, inclusive, )  
21 Defendants. )  
22 \_\_\_\_\_)

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) **NATIONAL FIRE & MARINE**  
)) **INSURANCE COMPANY'S**  
)) **UNOPPOSED MOTION TO FILE**  
)) **DOCUMENTS UNDER SEAL**  
)) **MEMORANDUM OF POINTS &**  
)) **AUTHORITIES IN SUPPORT**  
)) **THEREOF**  
)) **AND ORDER**

1 SHARP PLUMBING, INC., a Nevada )  
2 corporation, )  
3 Counter-Claimant, )  
4 v. )  
5 NATIONAL UNION FIRE INSURANCE )  
6 COMPANY OF PITTSBURGH, PA, a )  
7 Pennsylvania corporation; DOES 1 through 100, )  
8 inclusive, )  
9 Counter-Defendants, )  
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11 SHARP PLUMBING, INC., a Nevada )  
12 corporation, )  
13 Third-Party Plaintiff, )  
14 v. )  
15 NATIONAL FIRE & MARINE INSURANCE )  
16 COMPANY, a Nebraska corporation; DOES 1 )  
17 through 100, inclusive, )  
18 Third-Party Defendants. )  
19 

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20 NATIONAL FIRE & MARINE INSURANCE )  
21 COMPANY, a Nebraska corporation, )  
22 Counter-Claimant, )  
23 v. )  
24 SHARP PLUMBING, INC., a Nevada )  
25 corporation, )  
26 Counter-Defendant. )  
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1                   **UNOPPOSED MOTION TO FILE DOCUMENTS UNDER SEAL**

2                   National Fire & Marine Insurance Company (“National Fire”), by and through its  
3 undersigned counsel, respectfully moves pursuant to Rule 5.2(d) of the Federal Rules of Civil  
4 Procedure and Docket Numbers 101 and 102, for leave to remove the following documents from  
5 public view on Pacer and re-file the following documents under seal. This unopposed<sup>1</sup> motion is  
6 made on the grounds that the documents are protected by the attorney-client privilege and/or the  
7 attorney work product doctrine or constitute protected communications involving settlement  
8 negotiations:<sup>2</sup>

9                   1. Exhibit 7 to the Declaration of Rick Ratz: a letter from Martin Shives  
10 to Craig Marquiz and Henry Sharp dated September 22, 2009, produced by National Fire  
11 in this litigation and bearing Bates numbers NF 004557–59 (Dkt. No. 198-7);

12                  2. Exhibit 8 to the Declaration of Rick Ratz: a letter from class counsel  
13 to Martin Shives, dated October 29, 2009, produced by National Fire in this litigation  
14 and bearing Bates numbers NF 013734–35 (Dkt. No. 198-8);

15                  3. Exhibit 9 to the Declaration of Rick Ratz: an email from Martin  
16 Shives to Craig Marquiz, dated November 9, 2009, produced by National Fire in this  
17 litigation and bearing Bates numbers NF 013487–89 (Dkt. No. 198-9);

18                  4. Exhibit 10 to the Declaration of Rick Ratz: an email from Charlie Luh  
19 to Nathan Higgs dated November 9, 2009, produced by National Fire in this litigation  
20 and bearing Bates number NF 013482 (Dkt. No. 198-10);

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22  
23  
24                  <sup>1</sup> Counsel for Sharp Plumbing, Inc. has informed National Fire’s counsel that it does not  
25 oppose this request to file certain exhibits under seal.

26                  <sup>2</sup> These documents were inadvertently filed on the Court’s CM/ECF system on February 4,  
27 2013.

1               5. Exhibit 11 to the Declaration of Rick Ratz: an email from Bill  
 2 Coulthard dated January 28, 2010, produced by National Fire in this litigation and  
 3 bearing Bates numbers NF 006957–59 (Dkt. No. 198-11);

4               6. Exhibit B to the Declaration of Peter Jordan: an excerpt from the  
 5 transcript of the August 29, 2012 deposition of Martin Shives (Dkt. No. 197-2).  
 6 (Collectively, the “Exhibits.”)

7               This motion is based upon the accompanying memorandum of points and  
 8 authorities and the papers and pleadings on file in this case including the parties’  
 9 Stipulated Protective Order (Dkt. No. 101) and the Court’s Protective Order Governing  
 10 the Confidentiality of Documents (Dkt. No. 102).

11               **MEMORANDUM OF POINTS & AUTHORITIES**

12               On August 24, 2011, the Court entered the parties’ Stipulated Protective Order (Dkt. No.  
 13 101) and also issued a Protective Order Governing the Confidentiality of Documents (Dkt. No.  
 14 102). Pursuant to these Orders, National Fire respectfully moves to remove the Exhibits from  
 15 public view on Pacer and refile under seal.

16               Pursuant to Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 5.2(d), “[t]he court may order that a filing be  
 17 made under seal without redaction.” “[A]lthough the common law right creates a strong  
 18 presumption in favor of access, the presumption can be overcome by sufficiently important  
 19 countervailing interests.” *San Jose Mercury News, Inc. v. U.S. Dist. Ct.*, 187 F.3d 1096, 1102 (9th  
 20 Cir. 1999). A party seeking to seal a judicial document must “articulate compelling reasons  
 21 supported by specific factual findings that outweigh the general history of access and the public  
 22 policies favoring disclosure.” *Kamakana v. City & Cnty. of Honolulu*, 447 F.3d 1172, 1178 (9th  
 23 Cir. 2006) (citations omitted) (internal quotation marks omitted).

24               The Exhibits relate to National Fire’s Opposition to Sharp’s Motion for Summary  
 25 Judgment (Dkt. No. 196). Thus, under *Kamakana*, a “compelling reason” must be provided to file  
 26 the documents under seal. The Exhibits disclose, reveal, or otherwise relate to information

1 protected by the attorney-client privilege and attorney work product doctrine. Courts in this  
 2 District have previously held that protection of “the attorney-client privilege and the work-product  
 3 doctrine outweighs the public interest in accessing the courts” and constitutes a compelling need.  
 4 *See Asdale v. Int'l Game Tech.*, No. 3:04-CV-703-RAM, 2010 WL 2161930 (D. Nev. May 28,  
 5 2010) (granting motion to maintain the seal of documents protected by the attorney-client privilege  
 6 and attorney work product doctrine). *See also Phillips ex rel. Estates of Byrd v. Gen. Motors*  
 7 *Corp.*, 307 F.3d 1206, 1212 (9th Cir. 2002) (recognizing that “courts have consistently granted  
 8 protective orders that prevent disclosure . . . under the attorney-client privilege.”).

9 Likewise, under both federal and Nevada law, communications relating to settlement  
 10 negotiation are protected communications. *See NRS 48.105; see also Fed. R. Evid. 408.* ““By  
 11 preventing settlement negotiations from being admitted as evidence, full and open disclosure is  
 12 encouraged, thereby furthering the policy toward settlement.”” *Microsoft Corp. v. Motorola, Inc.*,  
 13 No. C10-1823JLR, 2012 WL 5476846 (W.D. Wash. Nov. 12, 2012) (quoting *United States v.*  
 14 *Contra Costa Cnty. Water Dist.*, 678 F.2d 90, 92 (9th Cir. 1982)). The court in *Microsoft*  
 15 concluded “the importance of encouraging frank settlement negotiations outweighs the public's  
 16 interest in knowing what was discussed in those settlement negotiations” and ordered that  
 17 documents containing settlement negotiation be sealed. *Id. See also Seals v. Mitchell*, No. CV 04-  
 18 3764 NJV, 2011 WL 1233650 (N.D. Cal. Mar. 30, 2011) (sealing settlement discussions).

19 As such, National Fire submits that the Exhibits should be filed under seal. Moreover, the  
 20 parties to this action have entered into a Protective Order in which it was understood that all  
 21 documents protected by the attorney-client privilege, attorney work product doctrine, or  
 22 communications reflecting settlement negotiations would be protected from public disclosure.

23 1. Exhibit 7 to the Declaration of Rick Ratz: a letter from Martin Shives  
 24 to Craig Marquiz and Henry Sharp dated September 22, 2009, produced by National Fire  
 25 in this litigation and bearing Bates numbers NF 004557–59 (Dkt. No. 198-7). This

1 communication constitutes a protected settlement communication involving settlement  
2 negotiation.

3           2. Exhibit 8 to the Declaration of Rick Ratz: a letter from class counsel  
4 to Martin Shives, dated October 29, 2009, produced by National Fire in this litigation  
5 and bearing Bates numbers NF 013734–35 (Dkt. No. 198-8). This communication  
6 constitutes a protected settlement communication involving settlement negotiation.

7           3. Exhibit 9 to the Declaration of Rick Ratz: an email from Martin  
8 Shives to Craig Marquiz, dated November 9, 2009, produced by National Fire in this  
9 litigation and bearing Bates numbers NF 013487–89 (Dkt. No. 198-9). This  
10 communication constitutes a protected settlement communication involving settlement  
11 negotiation.

12           4. Exhibit 10 to the Declaration of Rick Ratz: an email from Charlie Luh  
13 to Nathan Higgs dated November 9, 2009, produced by National Fire in this litigation  
14 and bearing Bates number NF 013482 (Dkt. No. 198-10). This is a communication  
15 between an attorney and a client protected by the attorney-client privilege and contains  
16 attorney work product.

17           5. Exhibit 11 to the Declaration of Rick Ratz: an email from Bill  
18 Coulthard dated January 28, 2010, produced by National Fire in this litigation and  
19 bearing Bates numbers NF 006957–59 (Dkt. No. 198-11). This communication  
20 constitutes a protected settlement communication involving settlement negotiation.

21           6. Exhibit B to the Declaration of Peter Jordan: excerpts from the  
22 transcript of the August 29, 2012 deposition of Martin Shives (Dkt. No. 197-2). These  
23 excerpts contain deposition testimony of an attorney concerning protected settlement  
24 negotiations communications between counsel.

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## **CONCLUSION**

2 Based on the foregoing, National Fire respectfully requests that this Motion be granted.  
3 Specifically, National Fire requests that the Court instruct the clerk to remove Docket numbers  
4 197-2, 198-7, 198-8, 198-9, 198-10, and 198-11 from public view on Pacer and authorize those  
5 exhibits to the Declaration of Rick Ratz to be filed under seal as they contain information protected  
6 by the attorney-client privilege and/or the attorney work product doctrine or constitute a protected  
7 communication involving settlement negotiations.

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*Attorneys for Third-Party Defendant and Counterclaimant National Fire & Marine Insurance Company*

## ORDER

**IT IS HEREBY ORDERED** that the Clerk of Court shall file UNDER SEAL the following Docket Nos.: 197-2, 198-7, 198-8, 198-9, 198-10 and 198-11.

**IT IS FURTHER ORDERED** that the Clerk of Court shall attach as EXHIBITS to the Declaration [198] of Rick Ratz in Support of National Fire & Marine Insurance Company's Opposition to Sharp Plumbing, Inc.'s Motion for Summary Judgment, the following Docket Nos.: 197-2, 198-7, 198-8, 198-9, 198-10 and 198-11. Thereafter, the Clerk of Court is directed to **SEAL** the entire Declaration [198] of Rick Ratz.

**IT IS SO ORDERED** this 13th day of February, 2013.

Gloria M. Navarro  
United States District Judge